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Linda McCulloch  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Sixth "Adequate Yearly Progress" Report Released on Montana Schools

Superintendent of Public Instruction Linda McCulloch today released the sixth annual Adequate Yearly Progress Report (AYP) to comply with the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Most of Montana's public schools met the federal education requirements.

"This year Montana was required by No Child Left Behind to dramatically increase the hurdles our schools must meet to make AYP," said Superintendent Linda McCulloch. "It is important for everyone to know that the quality of our schools continues to improve every year, despite significantly higher requirements."

The report shows 589 (72%) of Montana's 824 public schools currently meet the requirements of the federal law. 231 (28%) Montana schools are identified as not making the adequate yearly progress required by the law. 286 (68%) of Montana's 421 school districts met the federal AYP requirements. 133 (32%) Montana districts did not meet the federal requirements. (See *Chart A*)

"Montana's schools are improving," said Superintendent McCulloch. "According to the 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in only two other states scored higher than Montana students in reading. These same students rank 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation in math. Montana's 4<sup>th</sup> grade student math scores improved by 14 points among American Indian students and improved 18 points among low income students receiving a free or reduced meal."

Adequate Yearly Progress is measured using the NCLB required CRT reading and math test scores from 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. Each school's enrollment is divided into 10 specific subgroups including race ethnicity, family income, limited English proficiency, and students with disabilities. This creates 41 ways schools can fail to meet AYP. (See *Chart B*)

A school makes AYP only if all of the 41 subgroups of students meet the federal requirements. If any of the 41 subgroups in any of the tested grades do not meet the standards for math or reading; participation; attendance; or graduation completion rate,

*"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."*

then the whole school does not make AYP. Furthermore, if any school within a school district does not make AYP, then the whole district does not make AYP.

"While it is important to continually 'raise the bar' and challenge our students, NCLB places all the emphasis on only one test," said Superintendent McCulloch. "Other states have eliminated spring break and art, music and P.E. classes in order to spend more time 'teaching to the test.' I don't want to see that trend in Montana."

The No Child Left Behind Act requires that 100 percent of students demonstrate proficiency by 2013-2014. In order to meet this goal, the percentage of students rated proficient or advanced must significantly increase every three years. This year, the math proficiency target increased by 17 percent and the reading target increased by 9 percent.

"The AYP Report disregards the value of all that a good education provides," said Superintendent McCulloch. "It looks only at specific measures required by the federal government. NCLB rates all schools and districts based upon the results of one test given to students once a year."

All Montana schools and districts are affected by the No Child Left Behind Act. Schools that receive federal money, or Title I funds, are subject to additional sanctions of the law. In Montana, 79% of all schools receive Title I funds. Title I schools that do not meet the new federal standards for two consecutive years are required to revise their five-year comprehensive education plans, provide tutoring services, school choice options (when available within the district), and supplement teacher training.

"The Office of Public Instruction has assembled 'Montana School Support Teams' composed of veteran Montana educators to work with school districts having the most difficulty in meeting the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act," said Superintendent McCulloch. "These teams are shining examples of how we can work together. In fact, Powell County High School and Box Elder 7-8, made it off of the AYP improvement list this year!"

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was first passed in 1965, and it is the U.S. Department of Education's primary funding vehicle to provide resources to the nation's schools. Since 1965, the "Act" has been regularly modified and reauthorized. "No Child Left Behind" is the name President Bush gave to the Act passed by Congress in 2001.

The "Adequate Yearly Progress" status of each Montana school and district is summarized on the Office of Public Instruction's web site at: [www.opi.mt.gov/AYP](http://www.opi.mt.gov/AYP)

## (CHART A)

2004-2008										
	Made AYP					Did Not Make AYP				
<u>Schools</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
# Schools	589	742	752	791	732	231	83	82	51	125
% Schools	72%	90%	90%	93%	85%	28%	10%	10%	6%	15%
Total Schools	824	825	834	848	857					
<u>Districts</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
# Districts	286	363	361	405	363	133	62	69	29	75
% Districts	68%	85%	84%	93%	83%	32%	15%	16%	7%	17%
Total Districts*	421	425	430	436	438					
*Some schools not applicable										

## (CHART B)

<b>There are 41 Ways Schools Must Make AYP</b> (Miss even one area and the entire school will not make AYP)					
Population	Reading Participation	Reading Achievement	Math Participation	Math Achievement	Other Indicator
All Students					<b>The other indicator for High Schools is the graduation rate.</b>  <b>The other indicator for Elementary Schools is the attendance rate.</b>  <b>Both Rates apply to the entire school.</b>
American Indian					
Asian					
Hispanic					
Black					
White					
Pacific Islander/ Native Hawaiian					
Students with Disabilities					
Limited English Proficient					
Free/Reduced Lunch					